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Growing Highlights

March 2023

Dear Parents,

To me March means many things... the best is that Spring is right around the corner! I do not know about you, but I am ready to say goodbye to snow pants and boots!

This month we will be sending home a survey asking for your summer plans. It will be due back March 10th. It will be very important for you to get that back to us on time, as we have never been this full. If we do not receive it back in time, then I will assume you no longer need care. A big issue that child care is facing, as well as many other areas, is staffing. I am so blessed for the staff that I have and working for a supportive company. I truly consider myself lucky to have such a dedicated group to work with each day, but we do need more! Child care is in a real crisis right now, I have never had such a long registration list as I do right now. The problem has many sides... the cost of child care which is hard for families, qualified staff that should make more for what they do each day, retaining qualified staff, and the cost of running a center.

I did want to remind everyone that we do charge for days missed due to illness, and we do this because we still staff for the day based on expecting a certain number of children to attend. We still need to pay our teachers for the day, even if a child calls in sick. We do give credit for COVID related illness and/or testing for COVID.

The playground gets very wet, especially in Spring. Please remember to stock your child's cubby with extra clothes, maybe several pairs of socks! If your child is potty training, we need lots of extra clothes. We do not mind at all helping out with this milestone, but it is

difficult without the proper tools.

Just throwing it out there, but if anyone has any good size stumps this Spring/Summer we are always looking for replacement ones for the sandbox area.

In April, the *Week of the Young Child* will be here again; **April 3 - 7, 2023**. Each day will have something special that week!

Jane Sweet

Director

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Scholastic Book Orders

Orders can be placed online. Go to [scholastic.com/booMkclubs](https://www.scholastic.com/booMkclubs). You will set up an account in which they will ask for our **Center Code: H27BF**.

Books can be ordered and paid for online and will arrive at the center 1-2 weeks after the due date. You can choose to have your books shipped to your home or delivered to the center with our order.

Book orders are due by Friday, 3/24

Reminder, our center earns books each time you order.



- | | |
|----|-------------|
| 1 | Jonah T. |
| 2 | Leo A. |
| 2 | Ms. Emma |
| 7 | Grace F. |
| 7 | Grace H. |
| 8 | Caroline S. |
| 11 | Mina K. |
| 11 | Ms. Jane |
| 12 | Cecelia R. |
| 19 | Cedric S. |
| 21 | Sophie B. |
| 21 | Claire B. |

21	Sydney S.
21	Ms. Donna
27	Ms. Andrea G.
29	Keegan G.
30	George S.

CONGRATULATIONS

On celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House

Ms. Andrea G. 6 Years



Infants

Exploring art in the classroom is a positive and engaging way for children to learn more about themselves and their community. Additionally, art explorations are a great way for children to learn about the world beyond their physical and temporal experience. In other words, art activities can also expose children to different cultures, traditions, and time periods. Art also includes works that can be experienced through other senses, while some forms of art can be appreciated through multiple senses.

(Exploring Art with Children)

In the classroom, we have made art a focus over this past month. Painting with different materials (sponges, balls and our fingers), using our pincer grasp to pick up

2.5's

Exciting changes have been happening and with that said, I'd like to welcome Ms. Suzanne to our Little Baobabs classroom. Ms. Suzanne and I are now partners in caring and teaching your little ones. We would like to say goodbye to some friends as we welcome new friends. The class is adjusting nicely and getting outside to play in the snow has been a favorite. Other highlights have been AB pattern with pink and red hearts, learning to use a three point grip with markers and of course our Valentine's Day class party!

Ms. Andrea G. and Ms. Suzanne

3's

and place paper (construction paper, tissue paper and cardstock) onto different media. Doing art on our tummies is also a great way to work on two skills at once! Tummy time lasts a little bit longer because the baby is focused on another task.

Experiencing art is also a sensory experience for the babies. Many of them enjoy the texture and stickiness of the contact paper on their hands. They also enjoy the sound that the contact paper made as they manipulate it.

Here is a simple (and clean) art project that you can do at home. Take a gallon size freezer bag and slide a piece of construction paper with dabs of paint on it inside. Seal it up. Lay it on the floor for your baby to touch and squeeze while laying on their tummy or adhere it to their high chair tray with painter tape at the corners. Your baby can then sit in their chair and make a masterpiece without getting any paint on their fingers! Genius! We would love for you to share, via a picture, if you create a masterpiece at home.

Ms. Kristine & Ms. Mo

Older Infants

February brought our class new challenges, and we gained many more skills. Our newest challenge was our new table in the classroom and for some friends it was the first time sitting at a table. We do need some reminders about keeping our feet on the floor but overall, we are doing great! We would like to

We've had so much fun this last month! We did a unit on emotions and valentines! During our emotion unit, the children loved measuring how tall they were with different emotion faces. They also really enjoyed doing emotion sticker art. During valentines week, we played with water, oil, and food coloring in heart trays. The children used pipettes to squeeze up the water and move it around. They enjoyed seeing how it didn't mix with the oil. I'm asking parents to please make sure they check their child's cubby for extra pants and socks. As always reach out if you have any questions.

Ms. Chantel

4's

In the month of February, we enjoyed discussing Nutrition and our Emotions. The children thought it was funny to be painting with potatoes, blueberries, and cauliflower. The blueberries were especially fun when they would fly out of the box and onto the floor. We called them runaway blueberries. We also explored gravity with the large cardboard tubes parents brought in. The children had different types of races between each other. They would see which big cars were faster, then compare if the larger cars were faster than the smaller cars. They also worked as teams by holding tubes together to make a large tunnel. Thank you to all for bringing in our grocery store items. This has always been a well explored area for them to have fun in.

encourage all the families to try this at home. Some things we learned last month were about the shape of a heart, animal homes, we climbed in and out of our bear den, we learned about science in our exploring corner, and we had sensory exploration of nature animals in our sensory bin.

We want to thank all the families working on finding shoes that fit. The shoes help the kiddos have traction when learning how to stand and walk around the room. If you are still looking for shoes, I would recommend finding shoes that have tie laces, flexible soles, and a higher top. Thanks again!

Ms. Andrea K. & Ms. Bry

Toddlers

We had such a fun time learning about Valentines and Friendships. We have been working on stacking blocks and putting puzzles together. We are also encouraging manners, especially during mealtimes. We added family felt pieces to our flannel board wall for the children to enjoy. We also added books with Valentine and Manner themes. Speaking of books, the children really love singing and story time and believe it or not, they will sit there as long as we are reading and singing. We look forward to more outside time in the coming weeks.

Ms. Ruth & Ms. Amy

2's

Between shopping with friends, the babies, calling for pizza, and driving to the store with their keys and steering wheels. Who needs a car when you have a steering wheel? We have a new globe in our room the children find really fun. The children will put their finger on the globe, then we will spin the globe. They love seeing where they land. The children have landed in Africa, China, the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming, Ohio, Pacific Ocean, and the North Equatorial Current. We also explored our Emotions and how we feel when these emotions happen. One of our favorite songs is called The Feelings Song on Youtube. We would read stories or listen to this song and then discuss how they are feeling and how our emotions change throughout the day. We have incorporated a number in our lesson plans that we focus on. We discuss the number, how to spell it, how to tally it and how to count it out. They are doing really well indicating where the diagonal line goes when they hit 4 lines. They will yell out "tally mark" for the number 5. In the month of March, we will explore Construction, Community Helpers, Spring Weather, and Bugs. As always, any questions or concerns please feel free to talk with us.

Ms. Shannon & Ms. Emily

School Agers

It seems that Winter has come and gone, fake spring has come and gone, and really winter is back. I know this winter has

What a busy time! We had a blast with our Valentines week. We matched lots of colored hearts, painted with cool whip, and learned a song about hearts; *Oh, Do You Know My Valentine*. We explored a lot outside, playing in dirt and sand instead of snow. We are working hard on learning our shapes and numbers by playing games like Shape Monster and following directions while listening to action songs.
Ms. Tricia & Ms. Desi

been an odd one. I do want to remind parents about the importance of having proper outdoor gear (and reminding their children to bring/wear it). Not only do things like proper winter boots keep our feet dry and warm, but they also keep us safe on potentially slippery sidewalks. I am seeing more and more children coming unprepared. We do walk daily and go outside on school days off/early release/snow days. It was really a bummer having to watch multiple children not get to play in the snow with their peers because they were not dressed for the weather. I think that many have gotten into the habit of not having snow gear due to the scarcity of snow so far this winter. We still have a lot of winter ahead of us. We have been busy in the school age room building and creating. About a month ago we received some new building blocks (basically giant magna-tiles). It has really been fun to see what creations the children have come up with. We may have some budding architects and engineers in our class. We have also been busy doing two artist studies (James Goldcrown and Romero Britto). We have also recently gotten back into puzzles in the school age room. If you have any you would like to donate 300 - 500 piece puzzles are the best for our group. As always, if you have any questions for concerns, please reach out.

Ms. Donna